

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 29, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin  
Secretary  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin,

I write today to urge you to work with the Federal Reserve to enable providers of early childhood education and childcare services to access programs and facilities established under section 4003(b)(4) of Title IV of the CARES Act.

I cannot overstate the importance of child care services to our economy during this crisis as well as during the critically important post-crisis recovery phase. Currently, an estimated 3.5 million children of health care industry workers need access to childcare, and in most states child care providers have been deemed essential workers in our collective fight against the pandemic.

Moreover, the child care sector provides crucial services to over 11 million families across America and has a \$99 billion economic impact on our nation annually. The loss of major providers of child care services will hinder the ability of parents and guardians to re-enter the workforce once the pandemic ends, and will lead to a significantly slower recovery for the U.S. economy.

Already, the childcare sector is collapsing due to this unprecedented crisis — major child care providers have experienced an approximate 75% drop in attendance due to state and local stay-at-home orders, resulting in closures of about 65% of programs. In fact, some of the largest providers have experienced an 85% to 90% decline in enrollment. Any centers that remain open to provide care for 3.5 million children of health care industry workers on the frontlines of the fight against the pandemic are operating at a loss. This is not sustainable. Many child care providers will close for good without federal assistance. Without quality child care options, American workers will not be able to readily return to the workforce during our recovery efforts.

Mid-to-large child care providers unfortunately have limited access to the programs previously authorized under prior COVID-19 stimulus packages. For many, the only source of federal assistance available may be under Title IV of the CARES Act. We therefore urge you to work with the Federal Reserve to exercise your statutory flexibility to allow such child care providers to access the programs and facilities already established or to be established under section 4003(b)(4) of Title IV of the CARES Act.

For example, nothing in section 13(3) of the Federal Reserve Act imposes a specific credit rating or leverage requirement. Given the clear Congressional intent of the CARES Act to support our workers and the economy during this crisis, those section 13(3) programs and facilities established with funding from the CARES Act such as the Main Street Loan Facilities and the Primary Market Corporate Credit Facility (as well as programs and facilities that may be

established going forward) should accordingly provide a broader range of eligibility criteria to enable access by such child care providers.

We appreciate all the work that you and your staff have been doing during this unprecedented crisis.

Sincerely,



HALEY M. STEVENS  
Member of Congress

ANDY LEVIN  
Member of Congress

KURT SCHRADER  
Member of Congress

DANIEL T. KILDEE  
Member of Congress

BRENDA L. LAWRENCE  
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PETER A. DEFAZIO  
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DONNA E. SHALALA  
Member of Congress

ELISSA SLOTKIN  
Member of Congress

SUSIE LEE  
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Jerome Powell, Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System